SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I had given a notice.

श्री सभापति: मैंने अनुमति दी है। मैं यह चाहता हूं कि पहले मिनिस्टर को दे दूं।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: सर, इसमें मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछने की तो कोई बात ही नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: फिर आप शुरू कीजिए। दो हैं, एक आपका है तो आप बोलिए।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I had also given a notice.

श्री सभापति: आपका तो मैंने देखा ही नहीं है, मुझे मिला भी नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)... श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला जी आपको समय दे सकते हैं।

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Non-issuance of notification of the revised rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Jharkhand): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had given a notice to raise this matter during Zero Hour about the rate of interest on the Employees' Provident Fund. Sir, as the House is aware, and you are aware, Sir, this Government, the UPA Government reduced the rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund last year from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent. This year, one day before the elections were held in the three States of Haryana, Bihar and Jharkhand, this Government announced that the rate of interest is going to be revised upwards to 9.5 per cent. Sir, it is my information that to this date, this rate of interest of 9.5 per cent has not been notified by the Government. To this date, that is, from 2nd February to 21st March it has not been notified, with the result that a very important and crucial meeting of the Employees' Provident fund Organisation, which was supposed to be held yesterday, has not been held. It had to be cancelled because the issue is that additional Rs. 927 crores will devolve as a burden on the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation as a result of this revised rate of interest. Who is going to meet this bill? And the Finance Ministry, according to my information, has refused to give any subsidy for this. The rate of interest which is paid on the Employees' Provident Fund by the Government of India is less than 8 per cent. Therefore, the EPFO has no means of keeping up or meeting the increased rate of interest. Now, this is a situation which is completely confused. It is chaotic. The employees' withdrawls are pending. Nobody knows what will be the applicable rate of interest, because they said, it will apply for three years.

I don't know why our Left friends, who are such great champions of employees, are keeping absolutely mum on this. Therefore, Sir, I am demanding that the Government make a statement, in this House, about the real state of affairs with regard to the rate of interest applicable for the last three years on the Employees', Provident Fund.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any response from the Government?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय् कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी): सभापति महोदय, यह मामला श्रम विभाग और वित्त विभाग से संबंधित है। आदरणीय सदस्य ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, इसकी जानकारी से मैं उनको अवगत करा दूंगा।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: सभापति महोदय, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: अब आप क्यों बोल रहे हैं? Let the Government speak ...(व्यवधान)... आप छोड़िये, छोड़िये। श्रीमती जया बच्चन।

Termination of services of a physically challenged scientist by the IIT Delhi

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to first congratulate the Minister for Human Resource Development. He is on his way out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Arjun Singhji, please come. Take your seat to receive her congratulations.

श्री सभापति: आप बोलिए, आप बोलिए। वह सुन लेंगे।

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, Budgetary allocation for the physically challenged for the current year has remained unutilised. They have, thus, not received the attention they deserve. Added to this is a report that IIT, Delhi, terminated the services of a physically challenged scientist. He was afflicted with polio since childhood. One could understand the agony he must have gone through to realised his dreams, burdened with disability and poverty. The scientist, a Ph.D. from the same IIT was selected by UGC as a Research Scientist in 1990, and as Scientist 'B' in 1996. His services were terminated in 2000, after three years of promotion by a Review Committee stating that he was apparently in depression due to which he was not fit to work further. The same institute has all along been